

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles

After you have noted, I will show this to General Cabell, General Truscott and Mr. Amory.

A copy has already been sent to the Executive Secretary of the USIB for information.

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

FEB 19 1959

Dear Mr. Dulles:

In a letter dated January 22, 1959, you have requested my views on the desirability of the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) assuming responsibility for the further development of certain data requirements to be derived from several military space technology projects, the intelligence aspects of which, up to the present time, have been handled on an ad hoc basis. I refer to the work of the Intelligence Requirements and Capabilities Space Surveillance Panel, which the Advanced Research Projects Agency is chairing, and to the Ad Hoc Satellite Requirements Committee, chaired by the Air Force. As noted in your letter, both were established prior to the formation of the USIB, and in response to a requirement for better definition of those intelligence needs which might be incorporated into the several programs for which ARPA has been assigned development responsibility.

The Intelligence Surveillance Panel is in the process of completing its designated task of consolidating community-wide intelligence requirements and of examining those national space detection and tracking capabilities which could fulfill at least part of the requirements identified by the several intelligence agencies. In the Panel's report of its findings, which is being forwarded separately to you as Chairman, USIB, we shall suggest that the Board probably will wish to approve or modify the requirements compiled by the Panel in order that a formal statement of intelligence needs can be transmitted to ARPA for current and projected programs related to a national tracking environment and a space surveillance center.

Because of the urgency and complexity of the over-all surveillance program and the interest of the intelligence community therein, it is recommended that the work of the Panel be continued. However, with the submission of the Panel's report, it is agreed that USIB should assume direction and responsibility of its work.

With respect to the Ad Hoc Satellite Requirements Committee, ARPA has received valuable assistance from this five-agency working group in the form of intelligence requirements to be levied on Project SENTRY. The Department of Defense recognizes the continuing need for similar support, and agrees that this work may now be formalized within the USIB structure.

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At the same time, I am certain that you appreciate that the ultimate success of advanced research programs requires that careful consideration be given to the technical state-of-the-art, over-all priorities, funding, and operational problems. There is the further development problem of satisfying military research and operational requirements such as early warning, which have ramifications beyond those of intelligence alone. Thus, these programs cannot be bound exclusively to fulfilling intelligence requirements if the latter are incompatible with other basic considerations.

While we anticipate that Project SPACE TRACK and its associated world-wide tracking network will be able to provide significant support to intelligence, this project is at this time primarily a research and development laboratory. The extent to which it may assist in the satisfaction of intelligence needs will depend to a very considerable degree on the amount of participation and support provided by intelligence. The bulk of its products cannot be subject to certain of the restrictions that are essential to effective intelligence operations. A similar situation obtains with respect to certain aspects of Project SENTRY, MIDAS, and other ballistic missile defense programs.

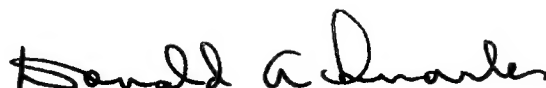
We feel that in all of these areas, as well as in the field of information exchange, ARPA's close working relationships with the intelligence community have been of considerable assistance in insuring that the several space and missile defense development programs make their maximum contribution to over-all national security objectives.

I am sure you will agree that this degree of close cooperation should be continued. At the same time, ARPA's continued situation as a research agency, its necessary relationships with the civilian scientific community, and the necessity that it be in a position to consider the several programs for which it is responsible to me from all aspects, suggest that its formalized participation in USIB's functions might be misconstrued. For this reason, I feel that the question of ARPA's associate participation in Board activities should be deferred at this time.

I have, however, asked the Director of ARPA to insure that his staff, in collaboration with General Erskine's office, continues its working level liaison with the intelligence community, and to provide

maximum feasible support to intelligence activities throughout the development of relevant programs. Whenever the agency can be of assistance in this manner, please feel free to call on Mr. Johnson or his staff directly.

Sincerely yours,



ACTING

Honorable Allen W. Dulles

Director, Central Intelligence Agency

cc: Asst to Sec Def for
Special Operations
Asst Sec of Air Force (R&D)